

Interview with Dr. Paul Liscio, first class of JCC, 4 February 1986.

Allen: Paul, you were a member of the second class at the Jr. College. In other words you started in Sept. of 1928. How many were in the class at that time?

Paul: We numbered somewhere in the 30's, I believe. The exact number I do not recall. In the graduation picture, there are 17 of us. I believe there were more than that that actually graduated, but like all pictures, not everybody makes it. I believe we had 21 that graduated in our class. Out of that group, lots of us went up to become, a few of us became dentists incidentally. Lenny Casillo was one of them, (?) was another, Sid Bernstein was another one and one became an MD., Harry Kirschbloom I believe his name was. And we had a very excellent class and a very close knit group. I don't know if you want to know anything about those.

Allen: Yes, surely.

Paul: A strange thing. In high school, I never had the opportunity to participate very much because I was working all the time, relatively poor parents. I never had a chance to get into activities. I think the French Club was my one activity in high school but when I came to the Jr. College and, the reason for my coming was, like a lot of us at that time, was that it was the least expensive way of going to college. Most of us probably wouldn't have had the opportunity to go to college if it were not for the opening of this school. I came in and I became active. For some reason, I guess the closeness of the people, and because for some reason I a little more time, I did become active the first year as treasurer of the class. In the second year I, not only became president of the sophomore class, but also treasurer of the Student Council. As such, I became a leader, I guess for the first time in my life, so I owe the Jr. College a great deal for giving me that opportunity.

Allen: Let's stop a moment. You said you were president of the student government association. What was the primary purpose of the student government association?

Paul: Like all classes, we were, some of us were a little bit more mischievous than others and because the building was rather small, whatever sounds came from locker rooms would cause (?) That was one of the things. We would also more or less try to instill in the students a sense of belonging and a sense of responsibility in the best way we could. We did have times when students would be brought before us and I don't recall exactly

what the procedure was, but Dr. Ropp was a faculty member and I believe there were some minor punishments meted out too and that was the beginning of the student government.

Allen: You have reinforced one of the ideas. In reading the constitution of the Student Government Association, I sort of got the impression that one of its main jobs was to keep order in the hallways. And in the building.

Paul: That would come up quite often.

Allen: Did you have anything at all to do with recommending academic policy or anything about the classes or such?

Paul: Not to my recollection.

Allen: Not very likely because the faculty kept a pretty tight handle on this.

Paul: Dr. Ropp was in our, at that time, he was a faculty member and with us the most. We got to know him the best.

Allen: Tell us about the young Dr. Ropp.

Paul: Dr. Ropp, when I think of it, he's not a heck of a lot older than I am, I'm going on 75 and Dr. Ropp was a young man, from Virginia who liked to be called, his name was Clarence Daniel Luther Ropp, and we were very respectful of him. He demanded respect, but above everything else, Dr. Ropp was an excellent teacher. He was probably one of the finest teachers that we had at that time and he instilled in us a sense of responsibility, a sense of looking ahead to the future. He was a good role model to many of us and to this day I have excellent memories of him.

Allen: Would this be a part of the reason that so many of your class ended up as dentists and doctors?

Paul: I can't speak for the others. It's a strange thing. I had not entered the Jr. College with the idea of going into dentistry, or any of the sciences, because I had excelled in languages but I came through the Jr. College I had in mind to major in modern languages and the person who was my faculty counsellor there was, of course, Professor Zampierre and Prof. Zampierre would tell me that I was an excellent student of French and that actually, I had won the French prize in high school and I was the probably the highest ranking student of French then but he was the first one to begin to discourage me from becoming a teacher because he said they were so relatively poorly paid and I can still remember, he'd say, "Do you want to be poor like I am?" and he was the first to begin discouraging me from carrying out what I had entered with that idea in mind. The person who influenced

me was Dr. Fones.

Allen: What was your relationship with Dr. Fones at this time?

Paul: He was chairman of the Board of Trustees, E. Everett Cortright was president, and I, for some reason, was one of those selected to travel with Dr. Fones at that time.

Allen: Doing what?

Paul: To speak as a student of this new college. I believe the Jr. College was the first of its kind in New England. It was something new and amongst other things, it needed visibility in the community, and Dr. Fones did a great deal in the way of public relations. I can still picture my first meeting with him. I walked from the Fairfield Ave. campus at that time. His office was two or three blocks down on Washington and Park and as I entered the building.

Allen: That building is still there, isn't it?

Paul: Oh, yes, in fact it has a plaque on the corner of it. A picture is in one of the photographs in the write up in the newspaper a few years ago. But he, I can still picture him. He came down the staircase, all in white, uniform and white shoes, very dignified, but very approachable man and that was my first close experience with him. He told me at that time that he would like to have me go to various civic organizations and also to homes of some of wealthy people. One of them was Brian Schiott. Had a big home down on the water on Long Island Sound in Southport. I can still remember going to a tea there, trying to balance my tea cup and my sandwiches. There would be civic organizations that we went to in the Stratfield Hotel. I recall he would give his presentation as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and then he would introduce me to give my point of view as a student. Why I had chosen the Jr. College and what I thought about it, and what my expectations were, and I gave a five or six minute talk. That was my -

Allen: Now the purpose of this was to get students or to raise money or both?

Paul: Both. Needless to say the college needed money and this was for the purpose of raising money which Dr. Fones did a great deal of because of his prominence in the community, and he and I, as a student, would reinforce that. I don't know who else did it, I think other students -

Allen: This is the first instance I've run across of students going with various officials. I don't know of any others.

Paul: I don't recall of anybody else being asked to do that, but that doesn't mean that someone else may have. It was a very

strong part of my life, in the sense that it was, I believe that was the turning point in, because I began to develop ideas of changing my courses. I was prepared to -. Dr. Fones was major one. I admired him and respected him.

Allen: Did you know anything then about his dental hygiene program?

Paul: No. I did know in a sense, because in public schools my first contact with a dental hygienist, or a person in the dental health field of any kind, was one of his early graduates, in his first school. One of those was Mabel McCarthy, whom I got to know very well in establishing the school named for Dr. Fones in 1947-49. And the first prophylaxis I ever had was one of his dental hygienists, graduating in 1914. I knew of it in that sense, because Bridgeport probably had one of the first programs of this kind in the country, to my knowledge, but he established his school in 1913 and continued it through 1918, graduating three classes. One of the things he had in mind was a public school program aimed at improvement of dental health for all the schools in Bridgeport. He had statistics of this improvement in the rating that I've done, he concluded that by so doing, he could improve the health, the dental health of the children by more than 50%. So that's what -. That was a very important part of my life in that sense. I didn't actually, when I knew him at the Jr. College, didn't associate very much at that time with him until later, but I was involved in establishing the school.

Allen: You said you were down at the Schiott's home, Schiott's home. He didn't come on the board until 1933.

Paul: Evidently he was one of those who was interested and was a potential source of funding.

Allen: What was his business.

Paul: As I recall he had the Dodge Agency and I associate it too because if I remember correctly, Dr. Fones always had a Dodge.

Allen: Now was that the agency right next to the college on Fairfield Avenue?

Paul: I believe it was down on Fairfield Avenue. I'm trying to recall the agency that was near the campus. I don't believe it was that, it was something else.

Allen: I will have to dig something out of my notes to verify that. I don't know much about Johannes Schiott. What type of man was he?

Paul: I don't know too much about him. I only remember his big home overlooking the sound. It was a mansion. Needless to say I

was pretty nervous

Allen: And pretty much impressed.

Paul: I had never seen anything like this. It stands out in my mind going there for this purpose.

Allen: Let's become a little more biographical for a moment and we'll come back and pick up some things. After graduation from the Jr. College, where did you go?

Paul: I applied and was admitted to Temple University, the dental school. The interesting thing there is that I can recall when first meeting the registrar that he looked at my name and said "you come from Connecticut, the Jr. College of Connecticut and who is this man, E. Everett Cortright? He is so insistant that the people from his school be admitted to schools such as ours and who ever he is, you owe him a great deal because there is no way that we were going to refuse admittance if he had anything to say about it". This was the kind of man that Mr. Cortright was.

Allen: We will come back and talk about Cortright later. This is one of the reasons, not reasons, one of the things that cortright did, he spent a lot of time going around to schools to get students accepted because this was the way of validating the work that was being done here, because there was no standarts for validating a Jr. College at this time, and in the catelogs, you may recall during this time, a long lists of colleges to whom Jr. College students had been admitted without loss of credit and some of them went on the be Phi Beta Kappa, they were excellent students. So you were at Temple Dental School, what was that, two years?

Paul: Three

Allen: Three

Paul: In those days, you could enter the school of dentistry with even one year of pre dental training, but I had two years and today, of course, few schools admit you without the Bachelor's

Paul: I had two years at Jr. College and four years at Temple.

Allen: And then you returned to Bridgeport to practice?

Paul: Yes, I tried to get internships at places like Mayo Clinic or Forsythe but I didn't make it, so I returned to Bridgeport to open a practice in the same year, 1934.

Allen: A good time, right in the middle of the depression.

Paul: It was a tough time, I'll tell you that. 1934 was not a big year and of course you mention the depression which was four years. I have to mention one thing that, I always did have a job. You couldn't work while going through dental school because our time was so taken up with study but in the summer, we had a long summer vacation, almost four months, and I was always able to obtain work to make at least half of my expenses for the coming year, but it was, I believe at the beginning of the third year in dental school, that year was the worst year. I tried all kinds of jobs (?) and got the idea of approaching Sylvanus Locke, the president of the Locke Steel Co. and I remember visiting him on a Sunday morning and, in fact he was still in his bathrobe, he lived over on Fairfield Avenue up a couple of blocks from the school and he talked to me and he said, asked me how much I needed, and I believe it was \$400. and he said, I will give you half of it if you will find the other half. I did, I found \$100. from a pharmacy and a \$100. from an attorney. And with the matching money, he gave me the other half, with the stipulation that when I graduated, no time limit on it, but when you find that you can, you can return it and then I can give it to somebody else. I owe Sylvanus Locke a great deal. I doubt that I could have returned to school that year. There were no other sources of funding, government funds or the like.

Allen: I know that period rather well because I had a somewhat similar situation. There was a scholarship fund administered through a bank in my hometown in Vermont and this was in '39 - '42 and I got \$500. a year from them, no interest until I graduated and then very small and paid it back and it just grew and grew and it still is in operation.

Paul: You were very grateful.

Allen: I had a rather similar situation to you, and a poor family and I was going to Yale, which was not that more expensive than the Jr. College I might add at that time.

Paul: Expenses were low, of course the big advantage at the Jr. College was that we could live at home and commute by bus, nobody owned a car and you were able to get by on the cost of tuition and your books. Incidentally my cost at dental school, I paid my total expenses, were something like \$900/yr and I'd have enough left over each week to spend .25 or .50 cents for entertainment. Sylvanus Locke surely prevented my failing to return to school.

Allen: What type of person was Sylvanus Locke?

Paul: He was an elderly gentleman at that time. He was very dignified person and yet down to earth enough to make or have an appointment with a student on a Sunday morning, so he had to be a very giving kind of person.

Allen: Did you know any of the other trustees? Mrs. Oppel for example.

Paul: Only by name.

Allen: You don't know what family she came from or what her husband did or something like that?

Paul: In later years I did know because I was so active in the alumni association but -

Allen: The reason I was asking is that the few records that I do have, indicate that she was one of the major contributors to the Jr. College as well as being secretary to the board.

Paul: I remember when she passed on.

Allen: That was in the 50's, wasn't it? She was secretary from the time of the Jr. College was incorporated right through until after I got here so it was a long, long time.

Paul: I didn't any of the others. I know Sylvanus Locke because of he loaned me money and I knew Dr. Fones because for some reason he selected me to travel with him. And I knew Dr. Cortright.

Allen: Let's come back to Cortright. You said that you wanted to talk a little bit more about him and gave some indication in the way which he helped students to get transfers.

Paul: He did. I continued in some way or other my relationship because as I mentioned before I became the second president of the alumni association in 1931, and Cortright was one of those people who liked to keep in touch with his former students. I can recall that in 1939 I was running for office in the city of Bridgeport, running for City Treasurer, and I'd become involved in politics and, mainly to meet people to build up my practice cause I had opened downtown in the old Meigs Bldg., on the cor. of Main and Fairfield and he was very proud of the fact that one of the alumni had had this distinction and I can remember talking to him about it and it was a funny thing. He said on the phone, "Paul, I'm having a hard time talking. I just had some teeth extracted, and I'm having a difficult time, but I just wanted you to know that, how proud I am that you have made this run and you went way ahead of the ticket", these were the days of Jasper McLevy when the Socialists were invincible, and incidentally, I hadn't even wanted to run on that because primarily I wanted to meet people and I became a joiner of various organizations and he was the Schwabisher Menner Chor, sang in the Chorus in German and listened to the guy next to me and, but I had no intention in getting so involved that I would jeopardize my practice so that I had become involved with the Democratic group. One day one of

the attorneys came up to my office in the old Meigs Building and said, "Paul, how would you like to run for city treasurer?" And I said, "Pat., his name was Pat Dioni, Pat I said I have no desire to run for any office and I said I told you before that I only want to, I'll do whatever I can to help the party but not to get that involved". He said "well", he said, at that moment the afternoon paper came in and there I was on the front page, it was in the paper already. He said it is too late to back out and that's how I became a candidate. It took up a lot of my time but I would not, I didn't regret that I had done it but I, after the election I was offered the spot on the police commission, and in my mind I said I've got to taper off because this is going to overwhelm me, so I didn't accept the offer. It took me two or three years to taper off. I was involved a total of eight years.

Allen: Disengaging from civic activities is an extremely difficult. Now you subsequently became associated with the Fones School at the university. When did that association develop?

Paul: When I returned from the service and I'd spent three years in the airforce as a Lt., I became acquainted with Betty Madden who is Betty Jensen, and she encouraged me to return to the alumni association and become active, and I did and the following year became president again and it wasn't too difficult in those days to, in fact, I believe I'm the only person who held it for three terms in 47-48. The reason I mention this is that it was during that period, 1947, that the data from the St. of Connecticut through the State Dental Association, they held a three day seminar in Norwich and came to the realization that with the closing of Dr. Fones original school in 1918, and here we are in '47, we had a hiatus of almost 30 years and no school of dental hygiene in the State of Connecticut. All dental hygienists were from other states that Dr. Fones had worked so hard to encourage other states to get dental hygiene and so that year, because I was president of the alumni association, I could approach people like Dr. Jim Halsey, and I had some input there, so Dr. Beebe, who was chairman of the council of dental health in the State Dental Association, asked me if I would be interested and sold me the idea of a school of dental hygiene at now the Univ. of Bridgeport. It had just become a university that year and I said I would give it some thought and I accepted the challenge, and for two years in 47-49, our meetings were held in our living room in Bridgeport and the university down at Marina and through a whole series of meetings, first the combination of local dentists and people from the university, one of the leaders in that was Dr. Harry Becker who was then Dean of Administration, so we finally became committed to it. And sold the idea to the state Dental Association through the Council of Dental Health, to raise the funds for it. We sold the idea to the university of Bridgeport, which I must say accepted it most readily, encouraging with the promise they would underwrite whatever expenses we

would be involved in. I became chairman of this founding committee, and the initial figures were way low and again I toured with other people in various schools of hygiene, like Columbia Univ., Temple Univ., and others that our costs were way off the mark and we raised the amount to twenty thousand thousand dollars, from ten to twenty, the ultimate figure was thirty five thousand, which was a substantial amount of money in those days and today it would be a couple of hundred thousand today. We had the facts with starting from zero. We had nothing except an idea and we had to sell the idea and then begin to scramble for the funds. Once we established the cost part, and it was a tremendous challenge, and the dentists of the state, we finally expanded our committee to the entire state, I think we had 35 members. We used to meet regularly in the dining area in Marina and the final amount raised was 35 thousand dollars, and all through this period, I had the responsibility of overseeing with Dr. Beebe and his sub committee on raising the funds and also visiting other schools to see what they had. Also purchasing the equipment with Dr. Hedberg who was a dentist on the Board of Trustees, and in fact we practiced next door to each other, in the City Trust Building. Back in '47 I was on the Board of Trustees as the alumni representative and so I say we had to develop the curriculum and one of our biggest tasks was finding people to teach and lead. Finally in 1949 after interviewing countless number of dentists, we finally got ahold of Dr. Strang who was a figure known throughout the country, even though he was 69 years old at the time. He finally said yes, if we could find an executive director and I seem to recall that we had a dinner and invited Dr. Strang and Fran Ferri from Springfield, and of course Fran had the background of developing a public school dental hygiene program in Keene, New Hampshire and I believe she also worked with the school in dental assisting in Springfield. And on that evening Dr. Strang told us he was going to consult with his lawyer, and he said I'll let you know in a couple of days and he did, so that this is how we started. I stayed with it (?) we, the committee became the advising committee, that is, the founding committee became the advisory committee and we continued as consultants to the school, and we were able to oversee the various things that needed to be done, including in those early days, the accreditation which was done through the Council on Education of the American Dental Association. So that we got accreditation by 1953 which was fairly simple (?) and I've continued in my relationship with the school.

Allen: And Dr. Strang retired as Director, when?

Paul: He continued as Director until 1970, and he was 89 years old then. We never thought he'd stay on for 20 years.

Allen: And still very vital and active at that time.

Paul: He was until he had the two automobile accidents which

slowed him up. I remember visiting him in the hospital the first time when he was about 80 and then the second time (?). He began to put the idea in my head of taking over, 'cause his was always on a part time basis. He taught a class in dental anatomy. And he was always quick to say, Fran, now Fran Dolan who was the one who ran the school just like the day Jocelyn Roman runs the school and I'm there (?)

Allen: Then you became director of the school in 1970 when Dr. Strang retired.

Paul: I rememer meeting with Henry Littlefield and asking me if I would please consider because I was then Director of a regional office of the State Health Dept. down in Wilton. It was a considerable responsibility but I had a staff of consultants that I had to oversee, who served 23 towns from the whole spectrum of public health including dental health, so that, I always remember Henry, I'd met with Henry and Al Diem and Earle Bigsbee and he said to me, Paul, he said, finally I met with him for a couple of hours in his office, I said I doubt if the commissioner of health would permit me to take this on. I've got a big job as it is, and I like it, but he offered to give me the equal amount of salary, if I wanted this full time and I thought that what I had was something that I enjoyed doing, not that I wouldn't enjoy the work. I said, I'll tell you what, Henry, I'll write a letter to the commissioner, and I remember writing a three page letter outlining my duties as a health director for the State of Connecticut, I had been with the Commission for 15 years, and I said I will outline on the basis of what you and I have talked about about what my responsibilities will be here at the Fones School and whatever I do will have to be at no salary because the state doesn't permit you receiving a double income and I believe that would be the way to go, and I wrote to Dr. Foote, who was then Commissioner of Health, this long three page letter and I got it back telling me, congratulations, he said this would be a boost for the State Health Dept., if you feel tht you can do it, take it on. So I did. That's how I became Director.

Allen: And you are still Director of the Fones School?

Paul: I keep telling Jocelyn, I think it's about time to bow out. No, let's see what happens. The school is very viable, one of the first things that needed to be done at that time, the enrollment had dropped off, and one of the factors was the funding, they had a grant at that time, it was a sizable grant. One of the clauses was that you had to increase the enrollment a certain percentage each year, I've forgotton what it was, maybe by 2%, so that I, the main thrust that year was recruiting to, it is now channel 8, it was channel 6 then and New Haven, they agreed to let us put on (tape went off at this point)
End of side One.
Side Two.

I contacted the guidance counselors in Western Connecticut and Southwestern Mass. and Eastern New York, so that we could get some feedback on this program and got such good feedback by postal caards. That year, after one year, we doubled the enrollment and actually went one to have some of the highest enrollments, actually too much, we were taking in 90. I feel over our capacity. We did that for a number of years. We became the third largest in the country.

Allen: And you also ranked among the top three in the country

Paul: And also ranked in that group. We still do and so that was one of the accomplishments, but by and large I did get involved in funding. In fact one on a two night phonathon we recruited a group of dentists and we raised ten thousand dollars in 1970-71. Recruited from dentists and over the years I'd say, from volunteers, we refurbished the school. We were trying to repay the University. I believe our final figures fell far short of what we had hoped to, but somewhere around 60 thousand dollars which wasn't too bad, but I've been involved in contracting and recently this past year I've been involved with Bill Flynn and the fact that we were successful in finally getting 4-10 students. Also, I've been involved in establishing community affiliations, mostly from I served as chairman on the board of a health center in the Westend, a low income area, and got the idea of putting a Fones office off campus using the old equipment that we had six units. Our students have the experience of patients in the low income areas, so that I was involved in many ways. I chair the, the advisory committee came to be liasion committee. Instead of limiting to dentists, there are people from all walks of life. We meet twice a year, so this is how I remain active.

Allen: You no longer practice dentistry?

Paul: I, as far as private practice, I stopped private practice in 1967 when I went to the State. So I sold my practice at that time. I became a public health dentist and from that I became a health director. That's a little bit about my professional career.

Allen: Let's go back to your student days. In the fall of '28 there was a football team, do you remember anything about that?

Paul: We had a lot of difficulties in getting a team together, in fact it was really a tremendous undertaking for a small school to recruit enough men to play football, and we finally did recruit 11 men, there were very few substitutes, in fact I believe at one time, it, they even went out and played with ten men. I remember there was a fellow by the name of Shapiro from New York and he ws a star. They played prep schools and we were very proud of them. Just the fact that they were out there playing ball and the main

purpose of it was again to give these students an outlet.

Allen: How did they get their uniforms, did the school pay for their uniforms?

Paul: I don't recall exactly how that was, we had an athletic association. We were all members of the athletic association. It probably may have been some money raised there. I don't recall exactly. I imagine the college had to sponsor them.

Allen: That first year you won one game by forfeit.

Paul: Yes.

Allen: Do you remember that?

Paul: I do.

Allen: That was when Collegiate Prep walked off the field after a fight and penalty.

Paul: It was a very courageous attempt on their part, to put together something like this. It only failed because there were not enough to put together a good team.

Allen: You probably won't remember this, but Fordham freshman were scheduled for the last game in 28 and I find no record of that game being played. Was it cancelled?

Paul: I don't remember.

Allen: Did you have a basketball team that winter?

Paul: I don't remember much about that.

Allen: I have a little bit.

Paul: Wait a minute, there were some that played basketball in fact in my class I remember a Saul Vassler played basketball. It didn't receive the publicity that football did. I don't even recall who the team was.

Allen: Later on there will be an awful lot of high school teams that they will play, and prep school teams, trade school etc. and now in 29, was there a football team, the second year.

Paul: To the best of my recollection there was. I can't-

Allen: I haven't gotten that far yet. One of the hobbies I developed out of this was reconstructing the athletic record for the Jr. College because that doesn't exist. And I've been having a little fun doing that.

Paul: Our campus life, you know, was hit and miss. Actually because so many of us commuted. There were a few that lived in the area. One of our focal points was the Pawson home in the rear. We could buy our lunches there for fifteen cents you could buy a piece of pie and a sandwich and they, we looked to them like, as family. In fact in the years afterwards, two or three of them became patients of mine. They, it was a very cozy place. They lived up on the second floor, it was a garage apartment.

Allen: Yes, that was the area that underneath would become the little theatre and there were also classrooms there and then this apartment above where the Pawsons lived. What did you do for fun?

Paul: Some of the things that come to mind, one of the professors. I don't know if anyone has mentioned Professor (?) He had a great idea of taking us outdoors. He taught Social Studies and I remember going to a German Biergarten down somewhere at the end of class outdoors and I remember having class in the park. He was one of those people that, but as far as entertainment we tried to develop a choral group. I remember joining that. That lasted about a year. I believe mainly we enjoyed each other. We were a very serious group. We studied a lot and we would meet in the Library. That was another focal point. I'm trying to recall the librarians name.

Allen: Gallagher? I have her name

Paul: We were very close to her and of course we had our functions. We had dinners, some formal functions and I remember going to Putnam Park. It was an organized thing.

Allen: Tea dances?

Paul: We had dances, we had things of that nature and of course we had our assemblies.

Allen: Tell us a little bit about these assemblies. What was the purpose of them, do you know?

Paul: Anything. We were told, for instance, about the progress of the school, problems would be discussed, details I can't recall. In general they were to give us an idea of what the college was doing.

Allen: Would there be some outside speakers?

Paul: Once in a while we would have a speaker. I don't recall those people either. But what we do recall of that were the faculty.

Allen: Tell us a little bit more about some of the faculty that you knew.

Paul: Helen Scurr was one of our favorites. She was probably one of the finer teachers, also of English. She was our English teacher and she was a very caring person. She, she gave me the feeling of that she would never want to hurt our feelings. And I can recall one time one of the students had plagerized a whole story. We knew it, because it was far too perfect and she let her read the whole thing, and after class she took her aside and told her that she knew that this was plagerized. That was the kind of person she was, she would never offend anybody but she was also an excellent teacher and I learned a great deal from her. I was interested in writing in those days and enjoyed writing short stories and things of that nature and she would encourage and so she left a very loving impression on us.

Professor Wallace was our history teacher and he also handled some social studies. He was a very serious guy and I remember he liked automobiles cause he (?) road maps (?). And different cars of that day.

Allen: That would cost about \$895. then.

Paul: I can recall those of us that sat in the front row would duck from his spitting when he talked. He didn't do it deliberately, it was the way he talked. He became very enthused. Again, he was a very excellent teacher. But he never got too friendly with the students because it wasn't his nature to. I guess it probably was part of his philosophy on teaching, not to get too close but a very fine teacher.

Probably the one we were closest to was Prof. Zampierre. He was close to every student. He was a very loving kind of a person (?). He was also great in publicizing the school, he was a good public relations man. I became also a close friend because he was a member of the same civic group that I was. I remember going to conventions with him for years. He was a very caring individual. As I mentioned before, he was the first one to discourage me from following in his footsteps.

Then we had professor Alexandroff who was a colleague of Sikorsky (?) He taught Physics, Mathematics, but he was way up "here", way above us. Sometimes he was able to communicate with us very well but he had a very guttural accent but we admired him. He taught us a great deal but he was in aeronautics. He was in that groupod with Sikorsky.

Some of the others, oh, Burbay, I remember he taught Biology (?)

Allen: Ballou

Paul: Henderson in business. I'm trying to recall who else there was.

Allen: I understand Zampierre wrote the school song. The alma mater. You know I have the words for it. Well he is given credit for it and the music was written by someone else. And as a matter of fact, Mrs. Zampierre said the words came to my lover in the middle of the night and he got up and wrote the song.

Paul: Yes, it comes back to me.

Allen: I have not been able to find the copy of the music, I have a copy of the words.

Paul: I had a lot of material from those years. But threw it all out.

Allen: If you ever run across a copy of the music of that, I would love to have it.

Paul: In fact I, at our fiftieth reunion, we, let's see, I so wanted, reunion in 1980 and one of our classmates, I believe there were a half dozen of us there brought in a whole bag full of stuff for us to look at. Her name is Lois Saunders and she lives in Fairfield. In fact her father ran a school in Fairfield for years (?). She lived with her brother. I, one of the things she had in there as a copy of the Scribe in 1930. An item from the Christian Science paper in Bridgeport at that time and now whether or not she might have-

Allen: Do you know how I might get in touch with her?

Paul: She is in the phone book. I remember I had her phone number because I had to contact these people to try and get them to this reunion. She had quite a bit of material. At that time she was gracious enough to loan me and I made copies. I so wanted that original Scribe and I told her at that time, when she got ready to to turn it over.

Allen: I will call her and at least tape her and look at the material.

Paul: She, as far as I know, she has more material than anybody else. And Julius Fine was, of course, the editor.

Allen: Is he still around?

Paul: He left this area to go to the midwest. He was a patient of mine and he went off there somewhere.

Allen: He put out a good little paper. He really did.

Paul: He was capable, he was the right person at that time. He did an enormous amount of work. I wish I had all those papers.

Allen: I've got a box of them right over there. I will show them to you before you go.

Paul: One of the interesting things, we used to have Charter Day and I remember the president making a speech at the ivy planting, a lot of the events are very hazy.

Allen: Obviously, but you see in talking with someone like this we draw them out and they begin coming back a little bit and the chances are, too, that you start thinking about this and if you think of any other things, jot them down or give me a call and it will be very useful. Well, Paul, I've enjoyed this very much.

Paul: I've enjoyed talking.

Allen: And you've been most useful and most helpful on this. Your comment, let me ask another question. One area where you've been helpful, out of many, you said you were all members of the athletic association, what did the athletic association do?

Paul: I believe it functioned to give encouragement, and also to, if I recall, to raise money and it could very well be and some of them may have gone out to various merchants and solicited support. It was mostly committed to the development of an athletic program and also it did intramural. I never became, I was never an athlete. I never became involved in the athletics itself. I always had a job and that took time after class.

Allen: This ties together with something else that I've run into about the faculty reaction to holding dances for the athletic association. They didn't think that was such a hot idea. I have some of the faculty minutes from this and I'm trying to reconstruct this whole period of social life and athletics becomes a part of it, and in reconstructing this, it is fun but also a little frustrating.

Paul: I mentioned before that students didn't drive automobiles but there was one student, I can recall him coming to school with a model A. As far as I can recall, that was the only car. Plenty of parking space.... As far as I can recall that was the only car owned by a student.

ALLEN: Well Paul, if you think of anything else, jot them down or give me a call, We will close this part off now.

end of tape.